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with instructions to classes or individuals. The appointee shall preferably be a woman if equally competent with other applicants, and the fellowship shall be awarded by a committee of six, composed of the president of the association, the chairman of the observatory committee and four others to be named by the president. The committee appointed for this service is Chairman, Professor Mary W. Whitney, Vassar College; Miss Annie J. Cannon, Harvard Observatory; Miss Caroline E. Furness, Ph.D., Vassar College; Mrs. Thomas W. Sidwell, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Emma B. Culbertson, Boston, and Mrs. Charles S. Hinchman, secretary, 3635 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, Pa.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE recent Minnesota legislature appropriated to the State University \$2,150,000 for the biennial period. This is in addition to the mill tax amounting to \$235,000 annually. Of the appropriation made by the legislature, \$190,000 is for support in 1909-10 and \$200,000 support for 1910-11. The sum of \$350,000 is appropriated for campus extension, and nearly \$1,000,000 for new buildings. The latter are to include a general medical building and an anatomical building, each to cost \$200,000.

THE trustees of Columbia University announce that \$500,000 had been secured for the erection of Kent Hall and work on the new law school building will soon begin. Other gifts announced were \$30,000 for general university purposes and \$5,000 for the department of pathology, both being anonymous.

A FUND of \$100,000 has been collected for Middlebury College, of which \$25,000 has been given by Dr. D. K. Pearson.

MR. JOHN R. LINDGREN has given \$25,000 to the Northwestern University to establish a fund for the promotion of peace.

THE new hall of engineering of Northwestern University was dedicated on May 7, when addresses were made by Professor John F. Hayford, director of the College of Engineering and Mr. C. W. Baker, editor of *The Engineering News*.

THE inauguration of Dr. Abbott Lawrence Lowell, as president of Harvard University, and the attendant ceremonies will be held on October 6 and 7, 1909.

AT Columbia University Dr. A. P. Wills, adjunct professor of mechanics, has been appointed professor of mathematical physics, to succeed Professor Richard T. Maclaurin, who will become head of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Bergen Davis has been appointed adjunct professor of physics to fill the vacancy arisen through the death of Professor Tufts. Dr. Geo. B. Pegram has been promoted to an adjunct professorship in the same department. Dr. Hugh Angus Stewart, of Edinburgh and recently of the Johns Hopkins University, has been called to an adjunct professorship of pathology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

THE new professorship in the department of teaching of the University of Vermont has been filled by the appointment of Dr. J. F. Messenger, A.B. (Kansas), A.M. (Harvard), Ph.D. (Columbia), now professor of pedagogy in the Virginia State Normal School at Farmville.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### OCCURRENCE OF THE KILLER WHALE (ORCINUS ORCA) ON THE NEW JERSEY COAST

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Neither of the two zoologists, Messrs. Rhoads and Stone, who have recently published extensive catalogues of the vertebrate fauna of New Jersey, records any instances of the stranding of killer whales on the coast of that state. Mr. Rhoads remarks of them (1903):

While often found off the New Jersey coast, there seem to be no records of its stranding, or being captured.

In view of this circumstance, it may be of some interest to note that the National Museum has obtained the skull and other parts of the skeleton of a killer whale which stranded at Barnegat, N. J., in January, 1909. The animal was at first reported to be a strange creature, of a most extraordinary kind, with hair, claws, a long neck, etc., but upon receipt of the skull it was at once seen that these characters were imaginary. The specimen was reported to be about thirty feet

long, and the skull proves it to have been an old individual.

Killer whales rarely strand on the Atlantic coast of the United States, and, aside from the individual just mentioned, there are, so far as I am aware, no specimens from definite localities on our Atlantic seaboard in any museum. Two killers stranded at Eastport, Me., in 1902, and were reported on by myself, and another was obtained at Portland, Me., in 1904, but the bones were not, I believe, preserved in either instance.

F. W. TRUE

April 6, 1909

#### THE PTARMIGAN AND THE SONNET

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Probably some readers of Mr. Clark's letter in SCIENCE, March 26, were no more amused at that queer ptarmigan than at his naming a blank-verse poem a "sonnet." "It is written that the shoe-maker should meddle with his yard and the tailor with his last, the fisher with his pencil and the painter with his nets," to the entertainment of men ever since old Capulet's Peter.

H. L. SEAVER

#### JOHANNSEN'S DETERMINATION OF ROCK-FORMING MINERALS

SINCE the book review in this journal of January 1, 1909, p. 32, the author has arranged with the publisher to indent and thumb reference the different parts of the text-book. This has added greatly to its convenience and efficiency.

L. McI. L.

#### FAMILY RECORDS

RECOGNIZING the great importance to humanity of a knowledge of the method of inheritance of physical and mental human characters the Station for Experimental Evolution is attempting to collect data for study and requests the assistance of persons who will volunteer to fill out a pamphlet form with blank spaces for data on some 36 characters in three generations of their family. These "Family Records" are sent in duplicate; one to be retained by the collaborator for his own

use, the other to be mailed to the station. A request by postal card for these records will receive an immediate response.

C. B. DAVENPORT

COLD SPRING HARBOR, N. Y.

#### SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Handbuch der Klimatologie.* Band I. *Allgemeine Klimalehre.* Dritte wesentlich umgearbeitete und vermehrte Auflage. Von Dr. JULIUS HANN. 8vo, pp. xiv + 394, figs. 22. Stuttgart, J. Engelhorn. 1908.

1883, 1897 and 1908 are three important dates in the progress of climatology. They are the years in which were published the first, second and third editions of Hann's "Handbuch der Klimatologie." Few text-books, in any one science, are so widely known to all men of science as Hann's famous "Handbuch." The second edition was so complete and so satisfactory that it was practically impossible to find fault with it in any important respect. Yet the new edition is an improvement upon the former one. The size of the page has been somewhat increased, a fact which is of special significance when the climatological tables, which will be necessary in the second and third volumes, are printed. The arrangement by books, chapters and sections, as well as the many new paragraph headings, help very much to make the volume more convenient for general use. All the important literature bearing dates since the publication of the second edition is mentioned, or summarized, in the new edition. Indeed, this book is much more than a text-book. Its numerous and well-selected bibliographic lists make it truly an encyclopædia.

Additions have been made throughout the volume. We note, especially, the newly introduced or the more extended discussion, of sensible temperatures; of the relative humidity indoors; of the nature and measurements of solar radiation; of the introduction of the cyclonic unit into climatological investigations; of the reduction of temperature observations to uniform periods of time; of the zonal distribution of the climatic elements, and of the classifications of the zones. Many persons will naturally turn to the chapters on